

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 230

By Jones

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend the Akilah DaSilva Foundation.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pleasure in recognizing those estimable organizations that are devoted to improving the lives of people in this State; and

WHEREAS, one such organization is the Akilah DaSilva Foundation, a nonprofit named after Akilah DaSilva of Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Akilah DaSilva was an exceptional young man with unlimited potential, whose creative talents as a musician, videographer, and performer would surely have seen him achieve his dreams of success; and

WHEREAS, at only twenty-three years of age, Akilah DaSilva was fatally wounded by a gunman at the Waffle House in the Antioch neighborhood of Metropolitan Nashville on April 22, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Akilah DaSilva Foundation was founded by his family to honor Akilah's life and to work with the public toward social reform and reducing gun violence, accomplishing this through community building and by raising awareness and providing education on gun violence; and

WHEREAS, the organization promotes harmony within communities by engaging youth and adults on the identification and intervention of potential violent risks; and

WHEREAS, the foundation also created the Akilah DaSilva Scholar, which organizes scholarships for students who are wholly committed to escaping cycles of violence; and

WHEREAS, dedicated members of the Akilah DaSilva Foundation include president and media consultant, Shaundelle Brooks; executive director, Abede DaSilva; administrator, Althea Johnson; vice president and treasurer, Amber DaSilva; scholarship consultant, Jonathan Brocco; Aldane Brooks of the junior advisory committee; and a host of supporting team members; and

WHEREAS, an ardent leader in his community, Akilah DaSilva often spoke out against guns and violence through his own music; in his song "Prophet," Akilah wrote and sings, "forget about making a hashtag, let's throw all the guns in a trash bag"; and

WHEREAS, Akilah DaSilva was a talented artist and devoted leader, and his memory is honored through the Akilah DaSilva Foundation and his family's steadfast activism for violence reform; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize and commend the Akilah DaSilva Foundation for its devoted service to families and communities throughout the nation, extending our deepest gratitude for the foundation's important work and our best wishes for its continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.